

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 110937Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5383

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS ON GOP FOREIGN DEFENSE POLICY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH JULY 10 PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED "GRATIFICATION" WITH RECENT STATEMENTS BY US LEADERS THAT US WOULD NOT ABANDON ITS ALLIES AND WOULD HONOR COMMITMENTS. DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES, PRESIDENT WISHED USG CLARIFICATION ON (A) RETALIATORY CLAUSE IN MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT, (B) UTILITY OF BASES, AND (C) POSSIBILITY OF AID UNDER MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. PRESIDENT SAID NATIONS OF SEA MUST REEXAMINE DEFENSE POLICIES AND READJUST RELATIONS AND AGREEMENTS TO REFLECT NEW EQUILIBRIUM OF POWER IN AREA. MARCOS CLAIMED GOP RELATIONS WITH PRC WOULD STRENGTHEN ITS HAND AGAINST INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES IN NEAR FUTURE. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS PERPETUATE TEMPO ESTABLISHED RECENTLY ON BASES ISSUE AND FOR FIRST TIME HE HAS PUBLICLY JUXTAPOSED MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH BASE UTILITY. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL DEFENSE GRADUATES JULY 10, PRESIDENT MARCOS SET DOWN THREE GUIDELINES WHICH SHOULD GOVERN POST A VIETNAM RELATIONS AMONG SEA NATION : (A) NO NATION OF THE REGION CAN AFFORD TO LEAVE ITS POLICIES UNEXAMINED OR ASSUME ITS SECURITY SITUATION STABLE AND SECURE; (B) SECURITY AND MUTUAL DEFENSE RELATIONS OR AGREEMENTS IN AREAS MUST BE REVISED BECAUSE OF NEW EQUILIBRIUM OF POWER; (C) EVERY NATION SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE IMPERATIVES OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND COEXISTENCE.

2. MARCOS SAID CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MUST BE REFLECTED IN ADEQUATE DEFENSE FORCE AND DISCUSSED CONTINUING EXPANSION OF AFP BUT PROVIDED NO DETAILS. MARCOS SAID ONLY THAT GOP HAS ADOPTED MEASURES TO UPGRADE AND BROADEN DOMESTIC COMPONENT OF ITS DEFENSES. QUOTE: WHILE PUTTING OUR PRIORITY ON VITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WE HAVE GIVEN FULL BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO IMPORTANT DEFENSE PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY THE SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES. END QUOTE. MARCOS SAID THIS WOULD ENABLE GOP TO INCREASE AFP MANPOWER AND IMPROVE AFP WEAPON SYSTEMS. MARCOS ALSO SAID THAT GOP WAS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY THAT COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE TO RELY ON ITSELF SOLELY FOR ITS OWN SECURITY AND THAT GOP HAD NOT NEGLECTED TO PLAN AND PROGRAM NECESSARY MEASURES REQUIRED FOR SUCH QUOTE FORTUITOUS (SIC) SITUATION. END QUOTE.

3. MARCOS SAID GOP SECURITY SYSTEM HAS HINGED ON COMPLEMENTARY OPERATION OF MODERATE NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM AND US GUARANTEE WHICH FORTUNATELY HAS NEVER BEEN PUT TO TEST. PRESIDENT SAID PRUDENCE AND REALISM COMPELLED GOP TO INQUIRE WHETHER SECURITY ARRANGEMENT IS ADEQUATE AND WHETHER US WOULD COME TO GOP DEFENSE IN EVENT OF AGGRESSION. HE SAID RP WAS SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH US AND HAS INQUIRED HOW RETALIATORY CLAUSE IN MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT WILL OPERATE IN LIGHT OF US DISAPPOINTMENT IN INDOCHINA AND IN VIEW OF QUOTE: COMPETITION BETWEEN THE US CONGRESS AND THE US PRESIDENT FOR SUPREMACY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. END QUOTE. MARCOS SAID GOP HAS ALSO ASKED USG ABOUT (A) PRACTICAL VALUE OF US MILITARY BASES HERE, (B) WHETHER US POLICY AT THIS TIME REQUIRES US TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN BASES, (C) WHAT US CAN PROVIDE THE COUNTRY BY WAY

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OF MILITARY AID ACCORDING TO TEXT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT AND HOW AGREEMENT ITSELF CAN BE READJUSTED IN LIGHT OF NEW SITUATION IN SEA. PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED QUOTE: GRATIFICATION END QUOTE WITH RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT, SECSTATE AND SECDEF INDICATING US WOULD HONOR COMMITMENTS IN EXISTING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS AND NOT ABANDON ALLIES.

4. PARELLEL TO EFFORTS TO DEVELOP PHILIPPINE MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE, MERCOS NOTED GOP EFFORTS TO FORGE STRONGER RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL NEIGHBORS AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PRC AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. MARCOS SAID IT WAS GOP'S INTENTION IN NEAR FUTURE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES (WHICH CONTROLLED PRESS INTERPRETS AS MEANING COMMUNIST STATES OF INDOCHINA AND NORTH KOREA).

5. PRESIDENT WARNED THAT DANGER CONFRONTING PHILIPPINES AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SEA IS SUBVERSION. HE CLAIMED THAT RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY PRC, QUOTE: WILL STRENGTHEN OUR HANDS AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY OUR REPUBLIC FROM INSIDE. END QUOTE. PRESIDENT ALSO SAID GOP NEEDED MEN LIKE DEFENSE COLLEGE GRADUATES WITH BROAD PERSPECTIVE OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS SINCE QUOTE: PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC CRISES HAS BECOME ALMOST SYNONYMOUS WITH SECURITY IN OUR COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH PERPETUATES APPEARANCE OF MEMENTUM ON BASES POSED BY FINANCIAL TIMES JULY 7 SPEECH. ALTHOUGH IT PARELLELS STRATEGIC THRUST OF EARLIER SPEECH, IT LACKS SAME BROAD BALANCE AND THROWS U.S. INTEREST IN ASIA BACK INTO QUESTION AGAIN. IT REVIVES QUESTION OF AUTOMATICITY END CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION RAISED IN APRIL AND SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR FIRST TIME PRESIDENT PUBLICLY JUXTAPOSED CONTINUED USE OF BASES AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ALBEIT IN TERMS OF SELF-RELIANCE IN ALTERED SEA CONDITIONS. GOP MAY FEEL THAT HAVEING ALREADY ENUNCIATED BROAD POLITICAL AND STATESMAN-LIKE OBJECTIVES AT FINANCIAL TIMES FORUM, WHICH ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SPREAD OF WEAPONS OUT OF INDOCHINA, IT CAN SURFACE MILITARY ASSISTANCE CONSIDERATIONS IN SUPPORTIVE GUISE. PRESIDENT'S REFERENCE TO MILITARY

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ASSISTANCE NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN GOP COMMENT ON SO-CALLED QUID PRO QUO. PURNELL

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